THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MIRROR™

JO CHEN VOLUME 1

"Jo Chen's work is...genuinely mesmerizing."
-Joss Whedon
Creator, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MIRROR

JO CHEN

TOKYOPOP

"Jo Chen's work is dynamic yet delicate, real yet fantastical, and genuinely mesmerizing. She's one of the best in the business."
-Joss Whedon

In the dismal backdrop of New York City, Southern-belle-turned-prostitute Sunny meets the college-educated Lou, who makes a living by out-drinking people at bars. What first starts as a night of drunken passion quickly spirals into unexpected love, as together they begin to search for meaning in a world that has all but deserted them...

From celebrated illustrator Jo Chen (cover artist for Joss Whedon's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season Eight* and artist for *Runaways*, *Thor*, and *The Demon*) comes an emotional and moving story about seeking redemption and finding everlasting love.

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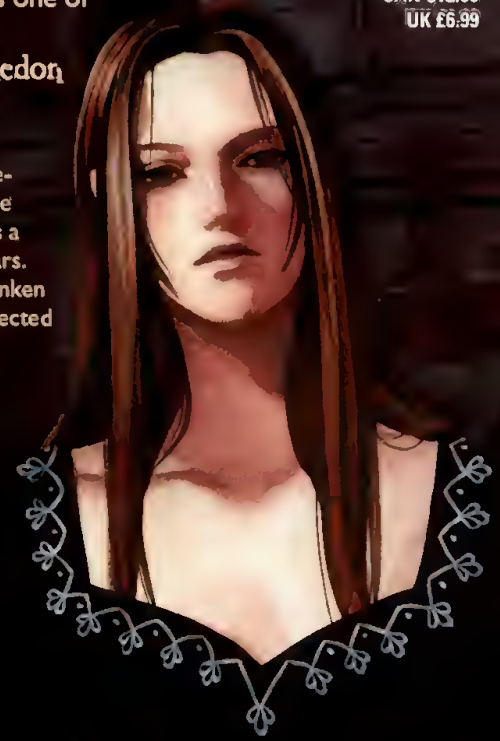

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THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MIRROR™

OT
OLDER TEEN AGE 16+

TOKYOPOP AGE RATING
MAY INCLUDE:
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SEXUAL PARTIAL NUDITY
MODERATE VIOLENCE
MODERATE GORE

ROMANCE

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THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MIRROR

By
Jo Chen

TOKYOPOP®

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Jo Chen
VOL.1
The Other Side Of The Mirror
鏡子的另一邊

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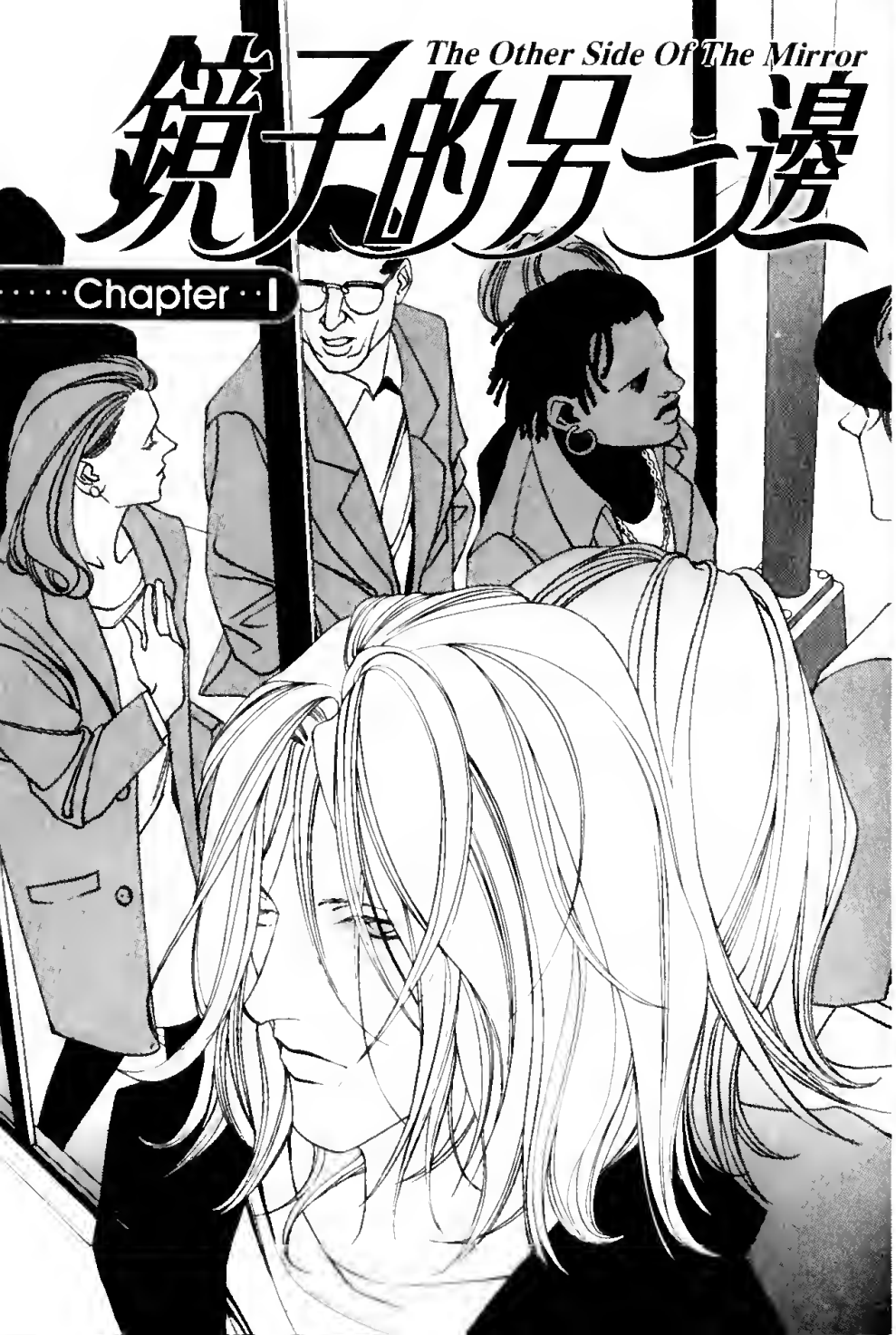
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.
STILL--WE LURCH FORWARD, STUMBLING DAY AFTER DAY
TOWARD SOMETHING BETTER.
MAYBE IT'S JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MIRROR.
OR MAYBE NOT EVERYONE FINDS A HAPPY ENDING.

The Other Side Of The Mirror

鏡子的另一邊

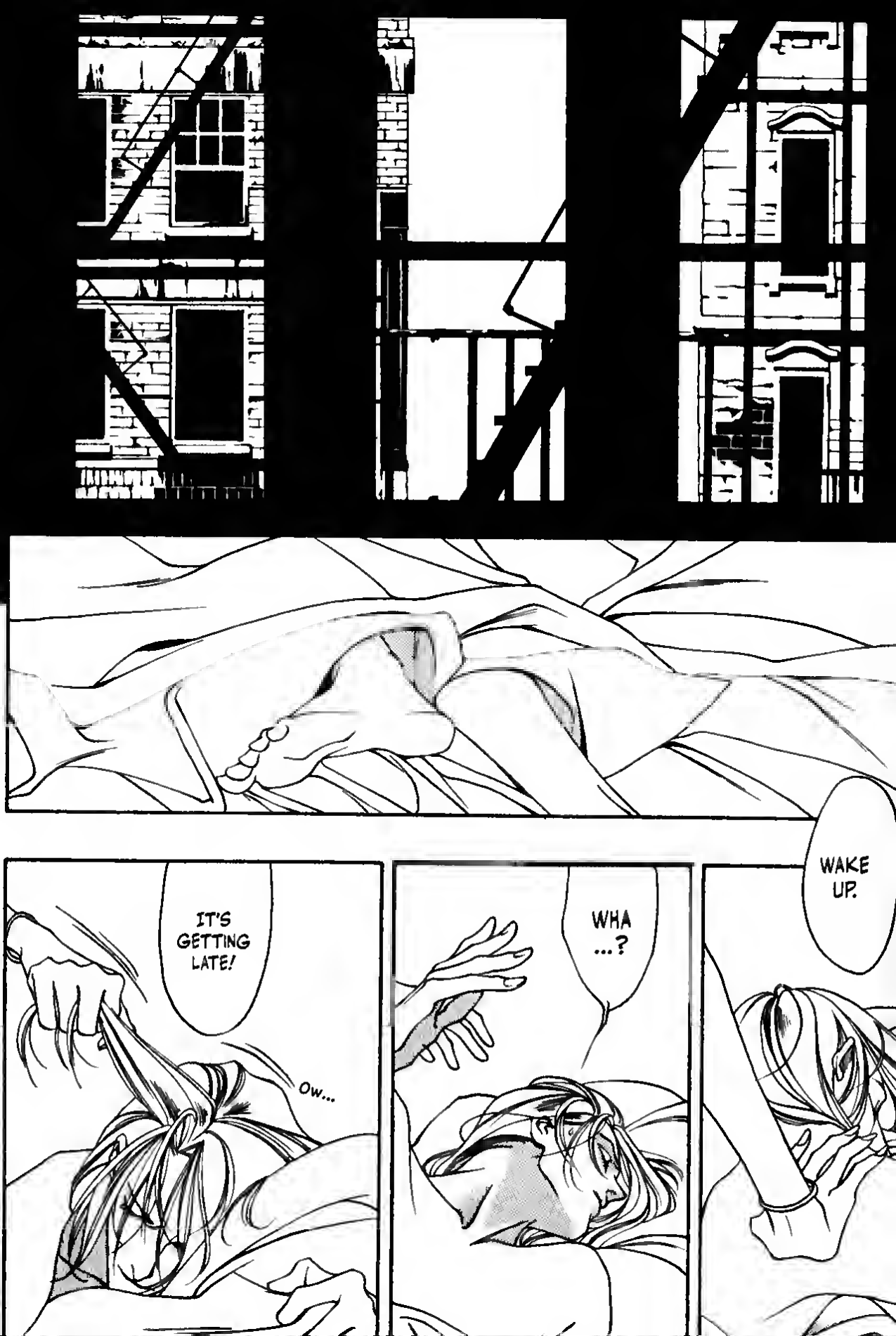
Chapter 1



JOE'S
BAR & DANCE

SAM ADAMS OVER HERE!
ONE SAM ADAMS.

.....
HEY... WANNA GO BACK TO YOUR PLACE?


WAKE UP.
WHA ...?
IT'S GETTING LATE!
Ow...

LOOK, I DON'T HAVE ALL DAY HERE.
AAAH! HOLY HELL!
OH...MY...GOD!! MY MAKEUP'S A MESS!
A LITTLE JUMPY?
...MMM

!
WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHAT"?
FIRST YOU SLEEP 'TIL ALL HOURS, NOW YOU WANT TO STIFF ME?
I WOULDN'T PAY IF YOU WERE THE LAST WOMAN ON EARTH!
TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR.
STIFF? WAIT YOU WANT TO GET PAID?!
YOU CAME ON TO ME LAST NIGHT!

SLAP
!!
WHOA! NOT THE JEWELS!

GOOD. NOW GET OUT.
ARE YOU DONE?
YOU DON'T SCARE ME.
I'M NOT GOING ANY-WHERE ...
WELL, I CAN'T... I DON'T HAVE ANY.
...UNTIL YOU GIVE ME MY MONEY!

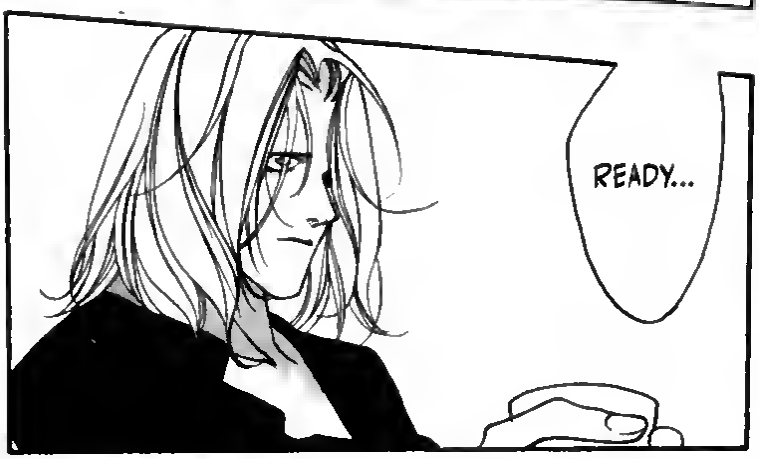
.....?
YOU SON OF A--
THIS IS ABOUT ALL I HAVE TO OFFER. AND IT ISN'T WORTH MUCH.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HEY.
LOOK, I'M SORRY.
COME ON. SAY SOMETHING. ANYTHING...
.....

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS CRAP!
WHATEVER!
SLAM
RUSTLE

CITY
AUTOMOTIVE
PENN'S
FENDER & BODY
SHOP
466
EL CID
HE & SHE
SENSUOS
LOVE
CORAL ROOM
TOPLESS
LOVE ACT
DANCE MIXES
JEFFERSON
PLACE YOUR BETS!
COME ON NOW!
HE'S JUST A SCRAWNY KID!
BUCK!
BUCK! BUCK!
FINISH HIM OFF, LOU!
SHOW HIM WHO DA MAN.
HEY, LOU!

I PROPOSE A TOAST... TO BUCK!


READY...

CLUNK

I PUT A LOT OF MONEY ON YOU!
HEY, MAN, DON'T LET ME DOWN HERE!
RELAX. I GOT THIS ONE.

DRINK!

LOU!
LOU!
LOU!
HE'S FINE. LOU NEVER LOSES.
LOOK, BUCK'S ABOUT TO GO. HE'S THE ONE YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT.
DAMN, HE'S HAD A LOT. THINK HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT?
BUCK!!!
OH!

GULP
HEH...
NO PROBLEM.
BU--
BUCK!
THUMP
AND LOU TAKES IT AGAIN!
SLURP...
YOU SUCK, MAN!
WUSS!
Boo-hoo...

BLEAAARGH!
UGH!

CLICK
SMACK
YOU'RE STILL HERE?!

HERE. CLEAN YOURSELF UP.
.....

OW! GET OFF OF ME!!
OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE! YOU HAVEN'T MOVED SINCE I LEFT.
I JUST THOUGHT YOU'D FEEL BETTER IF YOU CLEANED UP.
FINE!
FWAP

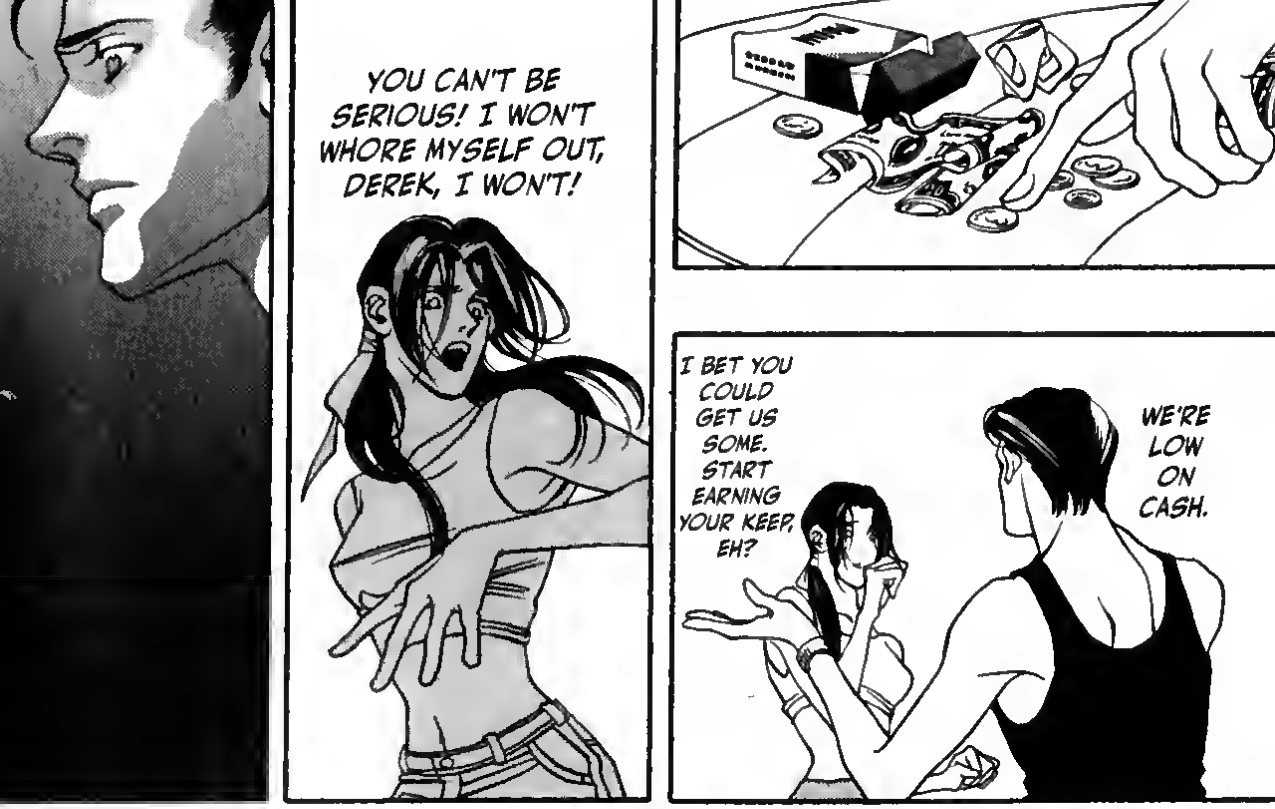
I WON'T HAVE YOU STARVING TO DEATH IN THE MIDDLE OF MY APARTMENT!
HERE, YOU MUST BE HUNGRY.
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY.
WELL, I GOT SOME, OKAY?
.....

.....
LOOK. I'M NOT GOING TO PAY YOU. WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO HOME?
I DON'T HAVE ANY-WHERE TO GO.
IS IT THAT OBVIOUS?
I'M FROM THE SOUTH.
YOU DON'T SOUND LIKE YOU'RE FROM AROUND HERE. IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME IN NEW YORK?

THE DAY, ONLY ONE...
THE NIGHT HAS A THOUSAND EYES...

DADDY...

DEREK! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
DAD, DON'T!


YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! I WON'T WHORE MYSELF OUT, DEREK, I WON'T!
I BET YOU COULD GET US SOME. START EARNING YOUR KEEP, EH?
WE'RE LOW ON CASH.

OKAY, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
TEXACO
I'M NOT SURE WE'RE ON THE RIGHT ROAD. GO FIND OUT HOW WE GET TO 95.

IT'S JUST--
WE'RE NOT TOO FAR OFF.
DEREK...?
DON'T LOOK SO SAD, SWEETIE. IT'S JUST A JOB.
HONEY, YOU CAN MAKE SOME GOOD MONEY TURNING TRICKS!
BAR & GRILL
SO, YOUR BOYFRIEND ABANDONED YOU. YOU DON'T NEED HIM.

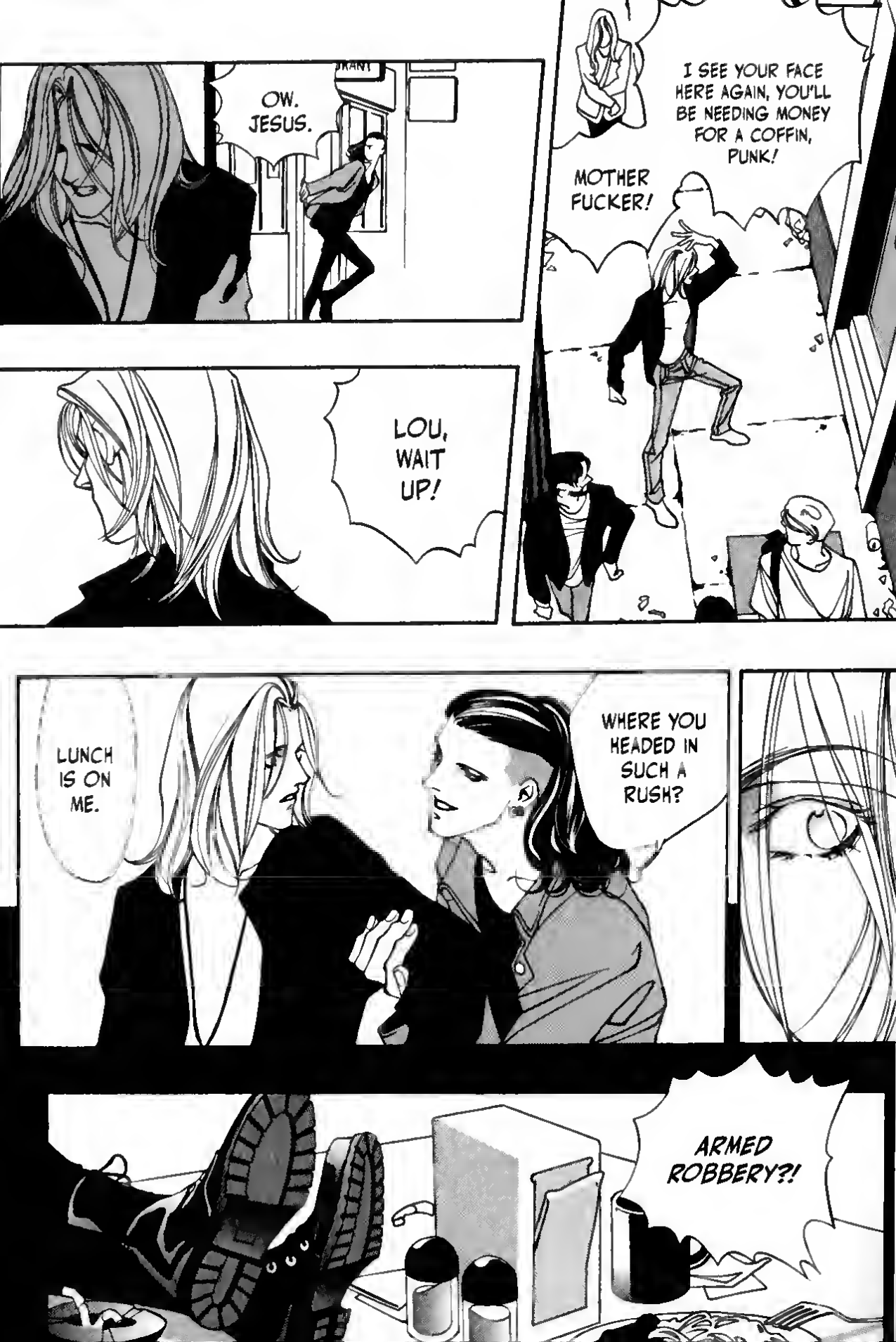
UP FOR A MATCH AGAIN?
HEY, LOU! MY MAN!
I'M NOT A MACHINE!
FUCK NO. EVEN I NEED A BREAK.

鏡子那一邊

The Other Side Of The Mirror

Chapter ·· II ·····

RESTAU RANT
RESTAURANT
RESTAU RANT
YOUR FOOD TASTES LIKE SHIT. YOU SHOULD PAY ME TO EAT IT.
OPEN


OW. JESUS.
I SEE YOUR FACE HERE AGAIN, YOU'LL BE NEEDING MONEY FOR A COFFIN, PUNK!
MOTHER FUCKER!
LOU, WAIT UP!
LUNCH IS ON ME.
WHERE YOU HEADED IN SUCH A RUSH?
ARMED ROBBERY?!

HEY, SHUT THE FUCK UP, MAN!
ARE YOU CRAZY?
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
IT'S AN EASY SCORE.
WE'VE BEEN CASING THAT BANK ON 15TH.

WE'RE TALKING THOUSANDS HERE. ME AND JOEY HAVE BEEN PLANNING THIS FOR MONTHS.
THEY GET CASH DELIVERIES EVERY WEDNESDAY AT TWO O'CLOCK SHARP.
WE'LL SPLIT THE MONEY THREE WAYS. YOU'D BE SET FOR LIFE.
WHAT DO YOU SAY? ARE YOU IN?
ALL WE NEED IS AN EXTRA GUY-- SOMEONE WE CAN TRUST.
!

I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR, MAN.
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
DO YOU WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE DOING SHOTS FOR A LIVING?
DON'T WALK AWAY FROM ME, ASSHOLE!
WHAT A FUCKING WASTE.

MR. SCHULTZ.
YOU'RE TWO MONTHS BEHIND ON YOUR RENT.
HEY! I'M TALKING TO YOU.
Woof! Woof!

YO!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
IF I DON'T HAVE THE CASH TOMORROW, YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF OUT ON THE STREET!

HERE IT IS, BOYS AND GIRLS-- THE FACE OF A LOSER.
HE SPENDS HIS NIGHTS IN BARS GETTING WASTED AND THEN HAS THE NERVE TO PASS UP A REAL OPPORTUNITY.
SELF-RIGHTEOUS IDIOT IS AFRAID TO GET HIS HANDS A LITTLE DIRTY.

THAT'S WHY HE'LL ALWAYS BE A LOSER. HE DOESN'T HAVE THE BALLS TO TAKE A CHANCE.
NOTHING BUT A COWARD.
COWARD!

COWARD!

TO EVERYTHING, TURN, TURN, TURN. THERE IS A SEASON TURN. TURN, TURN...
CRASH

A TIME FOR LOVE-- HEY!
AND A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN. A TIME TO BE BORN, A TIME TO DIE...
!
YOU'RE BACK.

I, UH...
I BOR- ROWED...
...SOME OF YOUR CLOTHES.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WELL, YOUR APARTMENT WAS A BIT MESSY...
And smelly, too!
...SO I JUST CLEANED UP A BIT.

Jo's note: "Sifting through trash is more like it."

HERE. FOR LAST NIGHT. IT'S FAR MORE THAN YOU'RE WORTH. NOW GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
OH.
RIGHT.

TMP
TMP
WAIT...
DAMN IT!

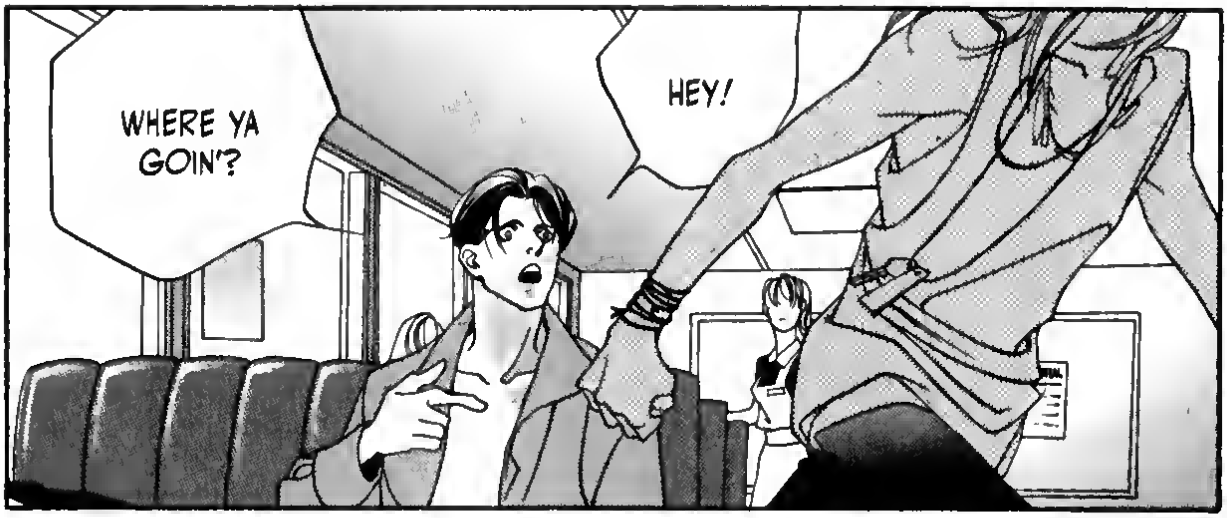
WHAT DID SHE DO TO DESERVE THAT?
SUDDENLY...
I FUCKING HATE MYSELF. AND I TOOK IT OUT ON HER.
I'M SUCH AN ASSHOLE.
...I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO I AM ANYMORE.
IF THIS IS WHAT MY LIFE IS GOING TO AMOUNT TO, MAYBE I SHOULD JUST CHECK OUT FOR GOOD. NO ONE WOULD MISS ME.

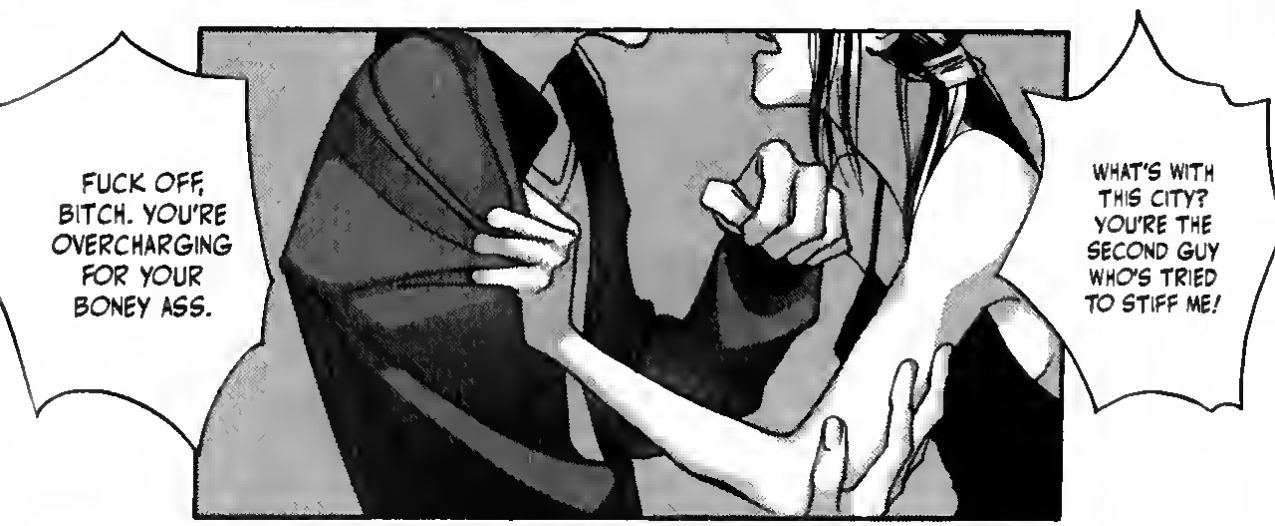
YEAH. EARLY CHECK-OUT. NICE AND EASY.

LUNCH
STAURANT
THEN THE REFLEXES KICKED IN
AND THAT WAS THAT.
MY RIGHT HOOK CAME OUTTA NOWHERE.
THE MOOLIE JUST DROPPED.
Ugh...

THE CROWD WENT NUTS! NO ONE THOUGHT I COULD DO IT.
YAK YAK YAK
BUT I JUST KEPT MY COOL, YA KNOW? LIKE A REAL CHAMP WOULD.
It was so awesome!
THAT

SO THEN, CHECK THIS OUT...
...SHE GIVES ME THE KEY TO HER ROOM!
!
!
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT SHIT--?


WHERE YA GOIN'?
HEY!


FUCK OFF, BITCH. YOU'RE OVERCHARGING FOR YOUR BONEY ASS.
WHAT'S WITH THIS CITY? YOU'RE THE SECOND GUY WHO'S TRIED TO STIFF ME!

DAMN.
GET LOST, WILL YA?

UNLESS YOU WANT TO GET A BAD REP. THEN IT'S JUST YOU AND LEFTY.
JOE. LAY OFF. AND PAY UP.
AW, I WAS JUST FUCKIN' WITH HER. NEW GIRL IN TOWN AND ALL.
I WOULDA PAID HER. HERE.

PEACE OUT.
THANKS, LOU.
BE CAREFUL, WILL YOU? PUT THAT MONEY SOMEWHERE SAFE.

HEY!
WHAT AM I DOING GETTING INVOLVED WITH HER AGAIN?
LET GO, CREEP!
WHATEVER.
I TOLD HER TO BE CAREFUL
GIVE IT OVER, BITCH!
SOMEONE HELP! GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!

SHIT!
STOP!
COME BACK HERE!
SKUFF
WELL, I'VE OFFICIALLY LOST IT.
HEH, EASY MONEY.

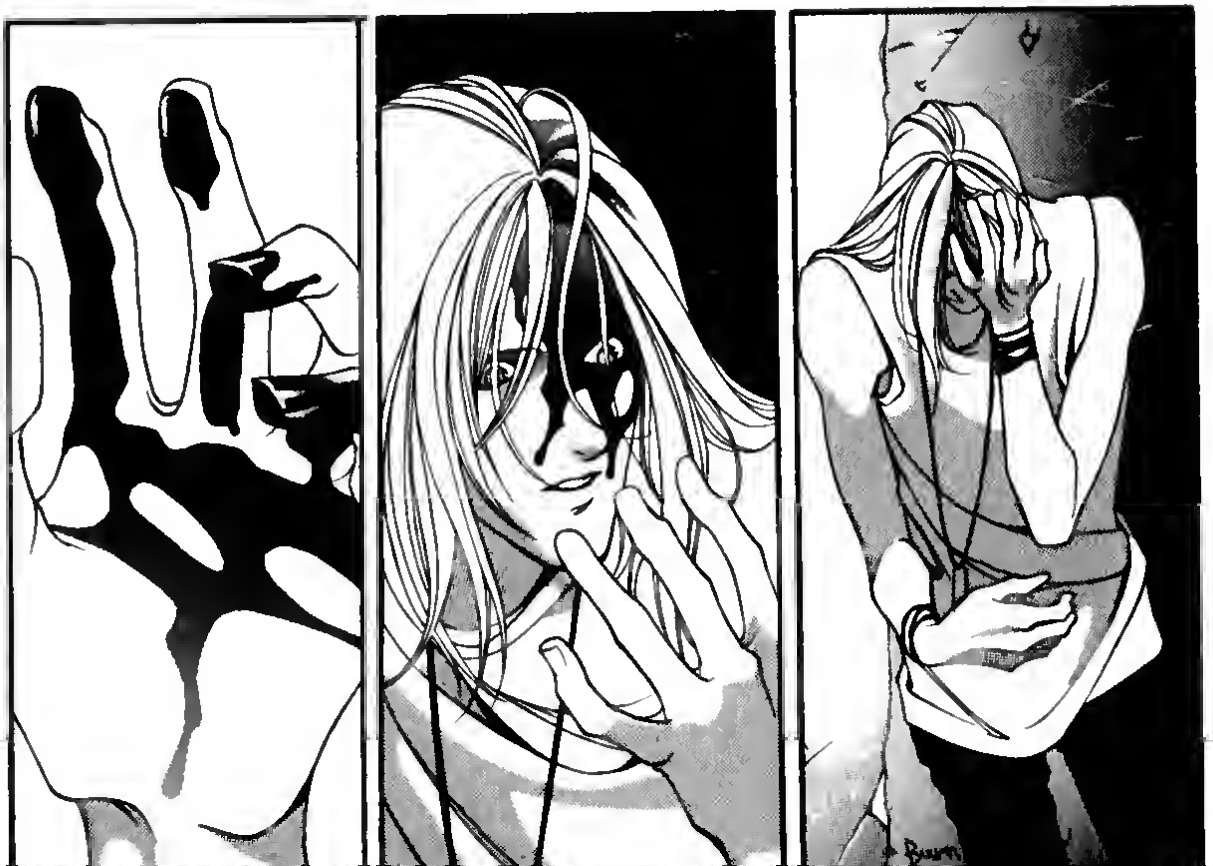
AAPH!

UNGH!
Huff!
Huff!
PANT
PANT

LOOK OUT!
STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM ME!
HERE, TAKE YOUR MONEY.
WERE YOU BORN UNDER A BAD SIGN OR WHAT?
sMAsH

鏡IMO
The Other Side Of The Mirror
300
IM NEWS STAND
MAGAZINES
COLD BEER · HOTDO
ICE CREAM · SOFTD
CIGARS
另一邊的
Chapter III

DRIP
DRIP



SO MUCH...
...BLOOD.
DAMN...
LOU!

.....
!!
LOU--
HOLD ON!
I'LL...
HELP...
SOMEBODY,
HELP!
HELP!
HE'S
DYING!

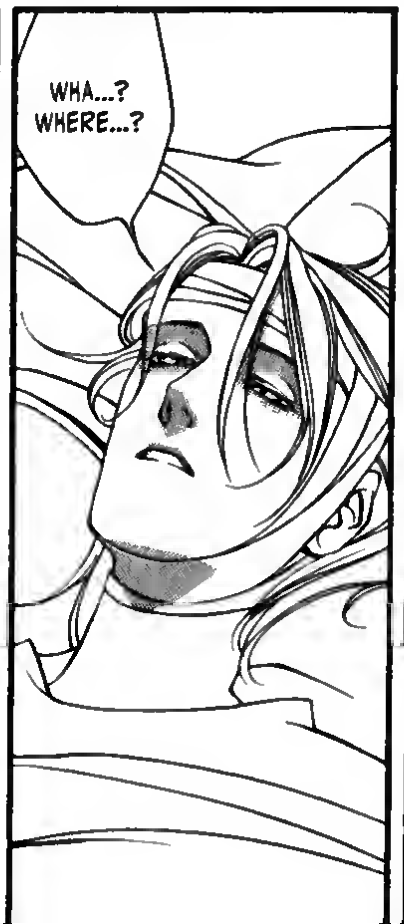
HE'S TOO HEAVY. SOMEONE, PLEASE! I CAN'T JUST LET HIM DIE.
SOMEONE, PLEASE HELP ME!
DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
I'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL, LOU.
HANG IN THERE...
NNGH!
...JUST A LITTLE LONGER!

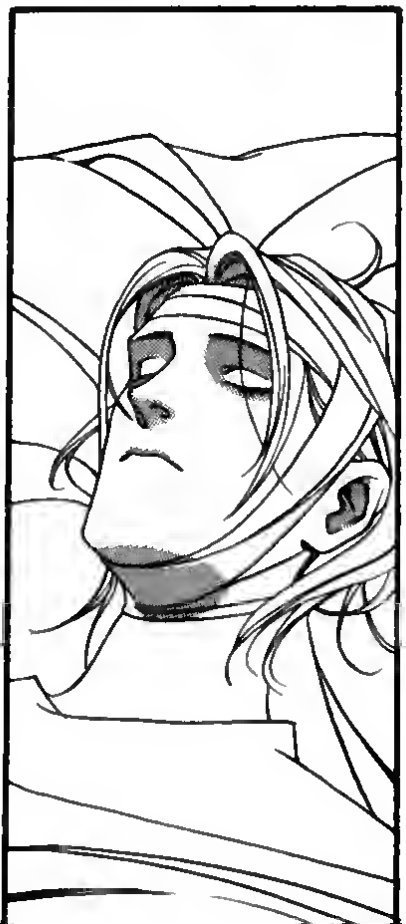
LOU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT'S IN NEW YORK, LOU?
THIS IS YOUR HOME. THIS IS WHERE YOU BELONG.
I'M LEAVING, MOM. I'M GOING TO NEW YORK!

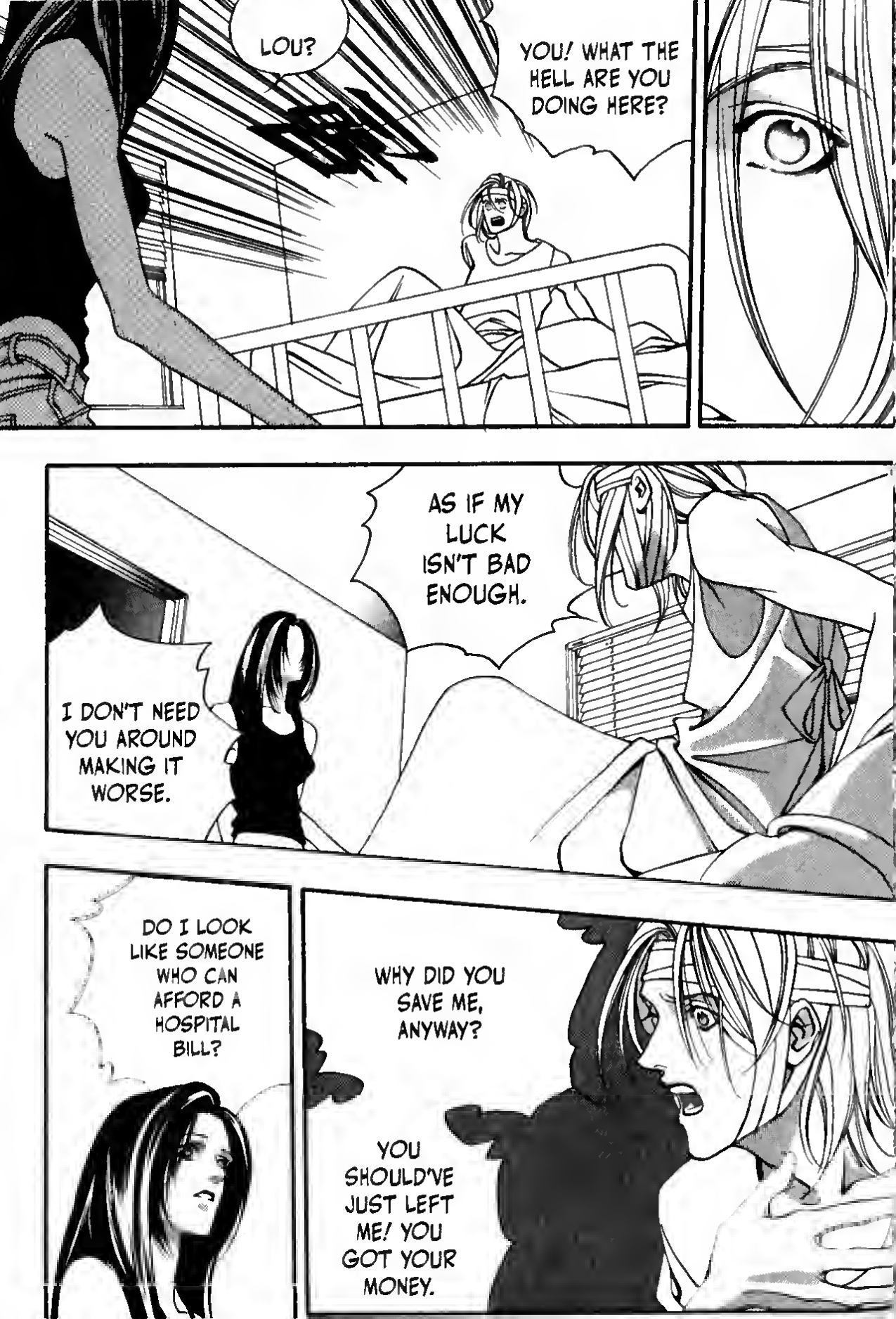
YOU WANT ME TO WASTE MY LIFE GROWING CROPS LIKE DAD DID?
MOM, ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
I WILL NOT SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE IN THIS NOWHERE TOWN!
.....
BUT I'M LEAVING SO THAT I CAN MAKE SOMETHING OF MYSELF. DO SOMETHING IMPORTANT!
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED, MA.

YOU'LL SEE. YOU JUST HAVE TO TRUST ME.

LOU. FINALLY!
YOU'VE BEEN UNCON-SCIOUS FOR TWO DAYS!

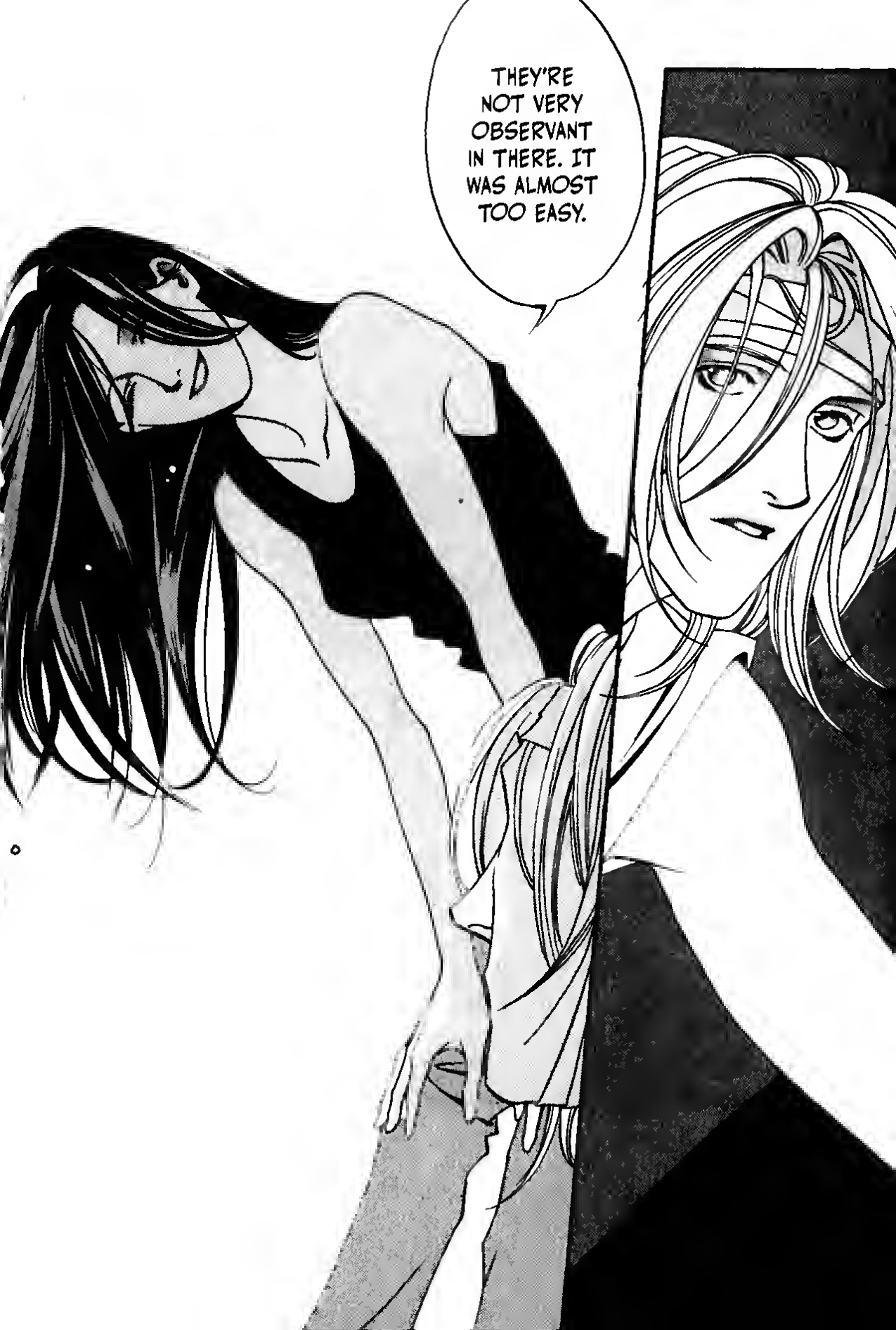

WHA...? WHERE...?




LOU?
YOU! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
AS IF MY LUCK ISN'T BAD ENOUGH.
I DON'T NEED YOU AROUND MAKING IT WORSE.
DO I LOOK LIKE SOMEONE WHO CAN AFFORD A HOSPITAL BILL?
WHY DID YOU SAVE ME, ANYWAY?
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST LEFT ME! YOU GOT YOUR MONEY.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH GOD. MY HEAD IS KILLING ME.
DO I LOOK OKAY TO YOU?
THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR TRYING TO PLAY HERO.
HELL IF I KNOW. IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN JUST SNEAK OUT OF HERE.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?

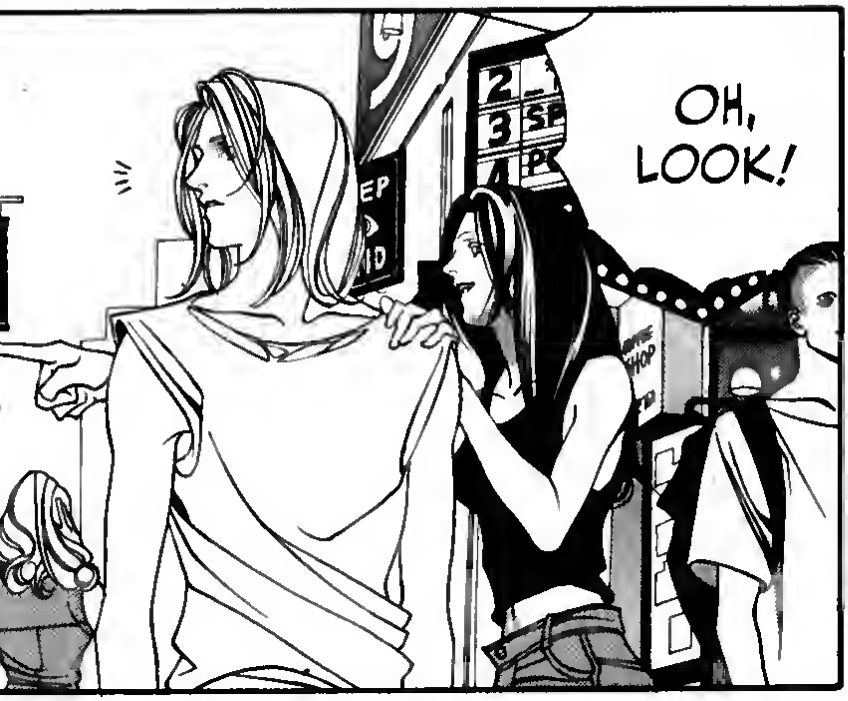
HUH?
TIME TO TAKE YOUR MEDICA-TION...
HA HA HA!
TOO FUNNY.
SO MUCH FOR DOCTOR BILLS!

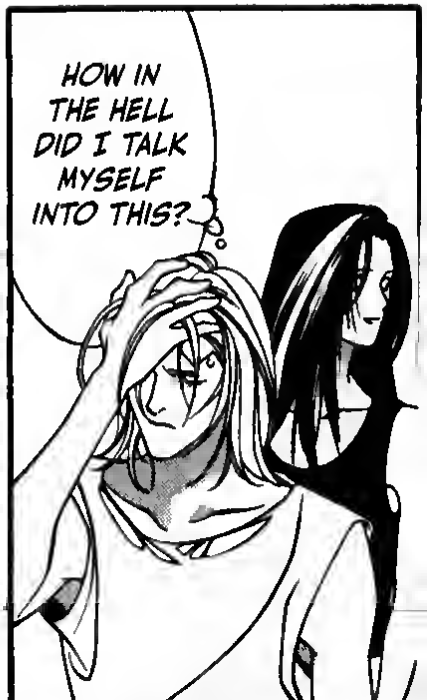

THEY'RE NOT VERY OBSERVANT IN THERE. IT WAS ALMOST TOO EASY.

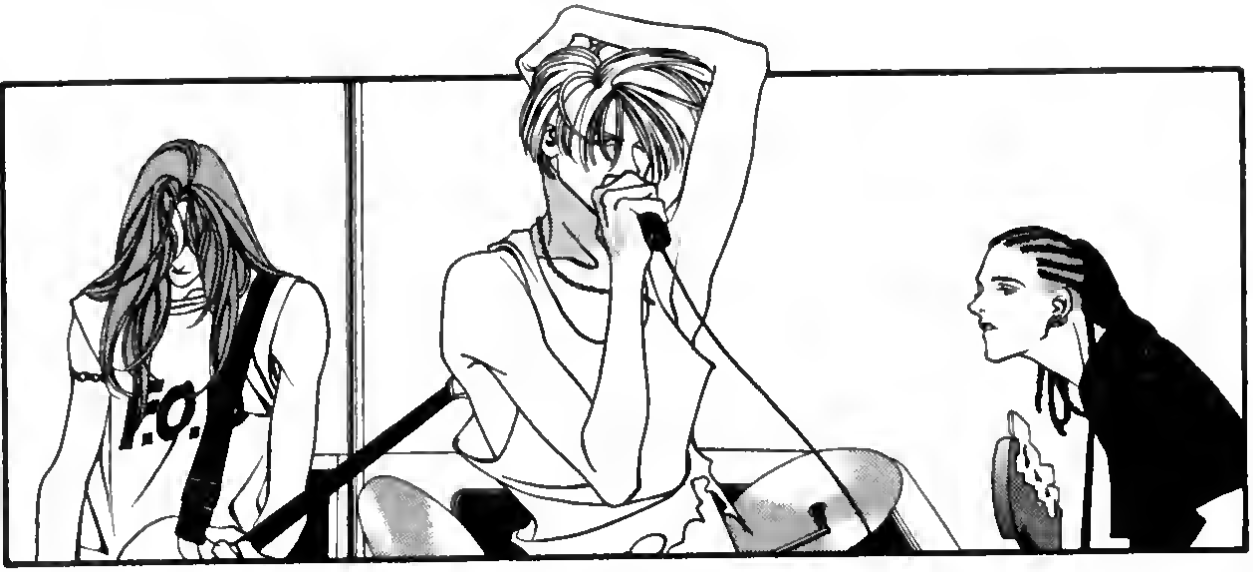
STUPID BANDAGE. ITCHES. AND LOOKS STUPID.
WHAT?
WELL, I GUESS I'LL BE OFF.
I THINK IT'S BEST IF WE JUST PART WAYS AND NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
I JUST DON'T WANT ANY MORE TROUBLE. YOU UNDERSTAND.

WANNA GO HANG OUT OR SOME-THING?
NO. I BARELY HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO FEED MYSELF, LET ALONE HER.
SHE'S NOTHING BUT TROUBLE. STILL...
WAIT...
WHAT AM I SAYING?
LOOK, UH... I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE GOING HOME RIGHT NOW.

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO MANHATTAN BEFORE.
WOW!
Genuine JOCKEY
sbarro
the Italian Eatery
TIMES SQUARE CAFE
CAMERAS - VIDEO
ELECTRONICS
BOSE
SAMSUNG

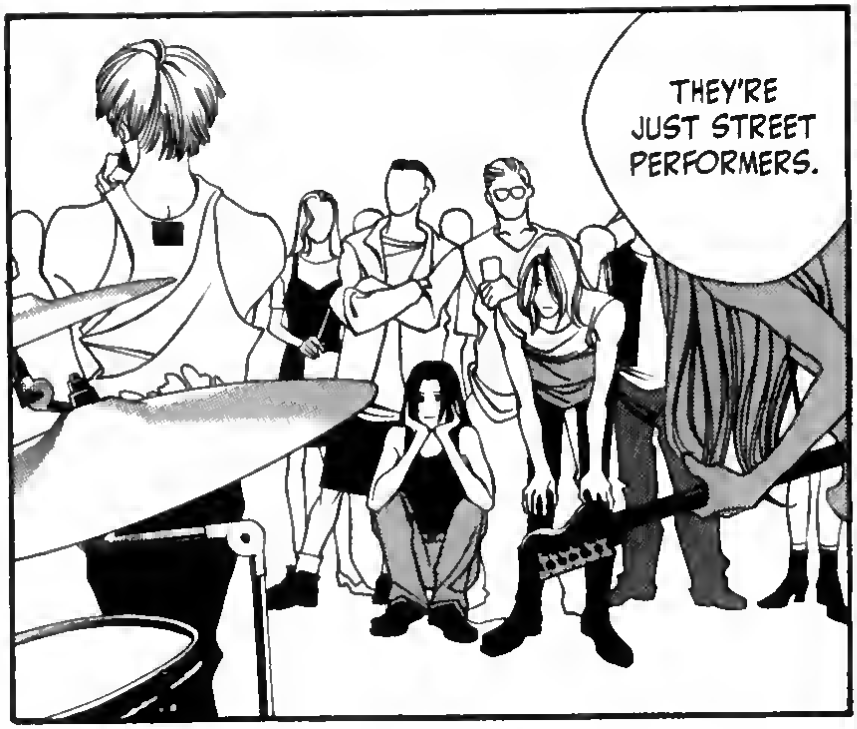

OH, LOOK!


HOW IN THE HELL DID I TALK MYSELF INTO THIS?

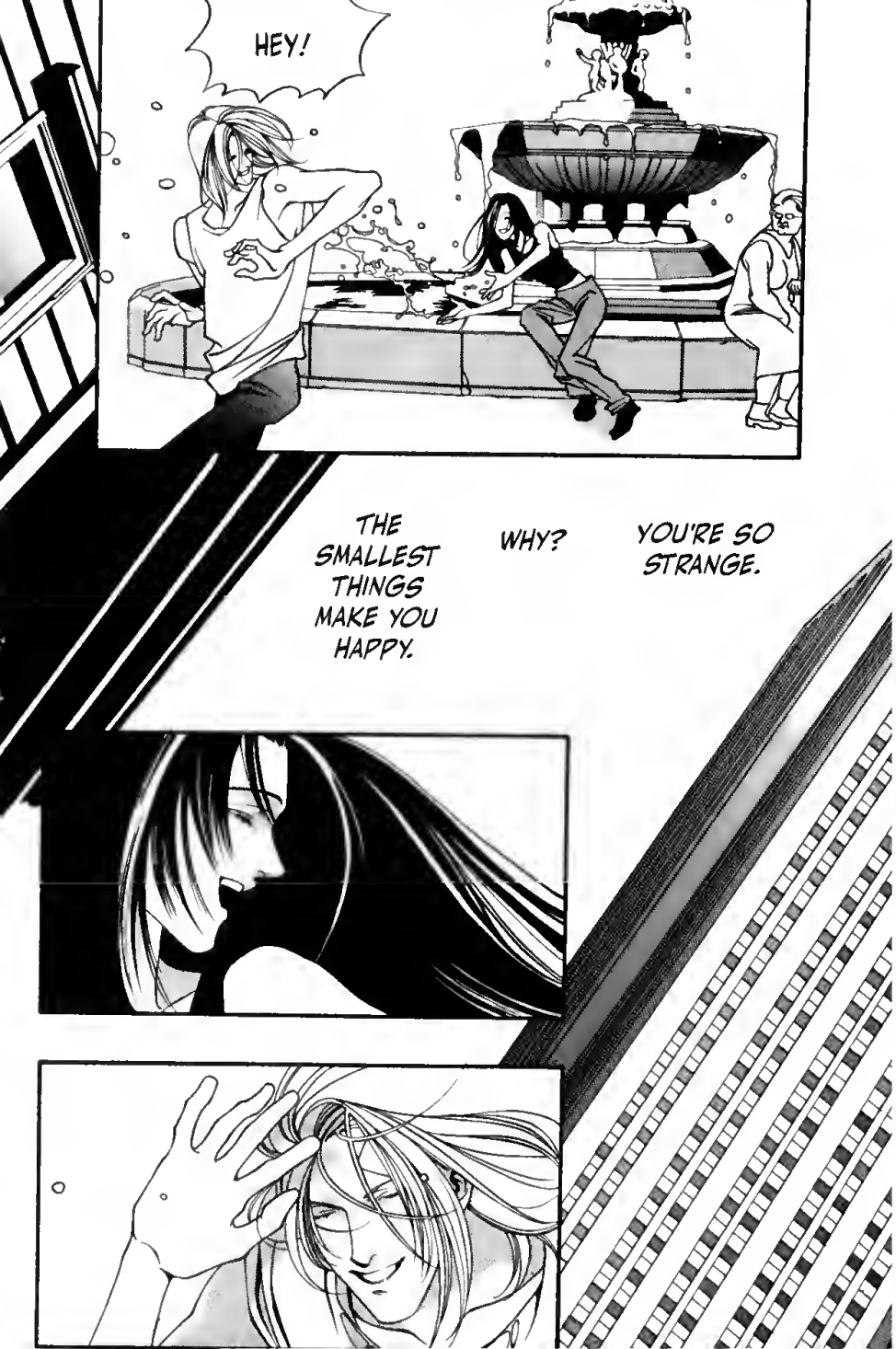

F.O.

HEY, TAKE IT EASY. HEAD INJURY HERE.

WHAT?


THEY'RE JUST STREET PERFORMERS.

WHAT?
LOU?
DID YOU HAVE DREAMS GROWING UP?
SURE. WHO DOESN'T? JUST STUPID KID STUFF.
DREAMS?
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A SINGER...
...LIKE MY MOTHER.
YEAH?
SHE NEVER MADE IT, THOUGH.


HEY!
THE SMALLEST THINGS MAKE YOU HAPPY.
WHY?
YOU'RE SO STRANGE.

HEY, CHECK IT OUT!
C'MON!
HUH? WATCH IT!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I'M SUNNY CORRIGAN.
IT'S SCHULTZ. LOU SCHULTZ.
SO, LOU, DO YOU HAVE A LAST NAME? OR IS IT JUST "LOU"?

HEY, LOOK!
Ha ha ha!
GIANTS
NIKE
This is Fox Evening News.
TV-STERIO-CAM
ELECTRONIC
OPEN
OUCH!
Thompson, 23, was killed in a shootout with police after he and an accomplice attempted to rob an armored truck.
The suspect killed in yesterday's attempted bank robbery has been identified as Jeffery Thompson.
Thompson's priors included petty theft, drug possession and disturbing the peace.
FOX
The shootout occurred when Thompson fired a pistol at police officers who arrived at the scene while the robbery was in progress.
6

This is Fox News Live...
When trying to resist arrest, Thompson was killed on the spot from shots to the head and chest.
His accomplice was arrested at the scene.
HA...
HA HA...
SIGH...
HA HA HA!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
HA HA HA!

TOUGH GUY.
BIG TOUGH GUY.
A LOT OF GOOD ALL THAT MONEY'S DOING HIM NOW.
WHAT?!
LOU?
.....

Coke
CLEANER BRIGHTER
"The great treasure is a wealth of information"
sharp

DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME?
YEAH.
SO YOU'RE FROM SOUTH CAROLINA, HUH?
SO AM I.
I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME...
...TO LEAVE NEW YORK.